(b) the amount of financial assistance provided to them by the Union Government during the last year; and

(c) the scheme under which assistance is being given to them alongwith the guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) At present 2539 Handloom Cooperative Societies are functioning in the State of Assam.

(b) and (c) During the year 1995-96, financial assistance of Rs. 13.06 Crores has been provided under the following Handloom schemes:-Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, National Silk Yarn Bank, Hank Yarn Price Subsidy, Janata Cloth, Health Package, Handloom Development Centre, Market Development Assistance, Margin Money for Destitute Weavers, Workshed-cum-Housing and Jute Handloom Development Centre Scheme.

Under the various Handloom Schemes the assistance is provided to the Handloom Cooperative Societies for supply of inputs, training, development of priducts, marketing, welfare of weavers etc. The pattern of financial assistance varies from scheme to scheme.

Foreign Institutional Investors

3289. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) will be allowed to invest in any listed companies in the infrastructure sectors;

(b) if so, whether these changes have been proposed by the Government and referred to the SEBI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which they are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) In terms of the guidelines announced by the Government on 14th September 1992, read with Foreign Institutional Investor (FII) Regulation 1995 as amended from time to time. FIIs are allowed to invest in the securities of all listed and unlisted companies, including companies in the infrastructure sector.

Narcotic Problem in Goa

3290. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the narcotic problem continues unabated in Goa;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make some changes in the drug laws for tackling the growing drug abuse problem in India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Drug trafficking is a clandestine activity. Although seizures of various narcotic drugs in the State of Goa during the year 1996 have shown a declining trend compared to the data of narcotic drugs seized during 1995, it cannot be said definitely whether narcotic problem in Goa continues unabated.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to amend the N.D.P.S. Act, inter-alia, to rationalise the sentence structure so as to make the Act more effective by providing stringent punishment even for offences relating to cannabis including cultivation of cannabis. The enhanced punishment for previous convicts for selected offences is proposed to be extended to all the offences under the Act.

[Translation]

Fall Back Wages

3291. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of collieries in which the workers were paid 'fall back wages' during the last three years, colliery-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons due to which 'fall back wages' are paid;

(c) the reasons due to which maximum 'fall back wages' were paid during the last three years; and

(d) the amount spent under 'fall back wages' head during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The information relating to names of collieries in which the workers were paid 'fall back wages' during the last three years, colliery-wise and year-wise is quite voluminous. The efforts and labour involved in collecting the same will not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved. However, numbers of collieries, company-wise and year-wise where fall back wages during the last three years was paid are as under:

Company	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
ECL	114	110	106
BCCL	78	78	76
CCL	34	34	37
NCL	Nil	Nil	Nil
WCL	41	41	45
SECL	16	19	23
MCL	6	5	5
NEC/CIL	Nil	1	Nil

(b) Fall back wages are paid to piece-rated workers who are not able to achieve their prescribed work load in their shift on any day for no fault of their but due to the reasons of:

(i) Power failure,

(ii) Break-down of machinery relating to coal production, transportation, ventilation etc.,

(iii) Derailment,

(iv) Startamovement/Geological disturbances;

(v) Non-supply of wagons at the siding within stipulated time,

(vi) Temporary stoppage of faces due to safety reasons, etc. etc.

(c) (i) Power failure,

(ii) Breakdown of machinery,

(iii) Geological disturbances i.e. adverse roof problems, faults etc.,

(v) Failure of wagon supply within stipulated time.

(d) The amount spent under the head 'fall back wages' during the last three years are as below:

Year	Amount
1993-94	1380.35 lakhs
1994-95	1193.10 lakhs
1995-96	1516.23 lakhs

[English]

Export of Agricultural Products

3292. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI NITESH BHARADWAJ:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the country's performance of the exports of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total quantity of agricultural products including spices and cardamom exported foreign exchange earned therefrom and overall achievements made during the Eighth Plan, item-wise;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any plan to boost the agricultural products particularly spices and cardamom upto 2005;

(d) if so, the details thereof and likely revenue to be earned upto 2005;

(e) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested to the Union Government for setting up of a regional office of Agriculture processed Foods Exports Authority in the State;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the time by which the said office is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Review of export performance is an ongoing exercise. The export projections for the agricultural and allied products (including coffee, tea, raw cotton and marine products) made by the Planning Commission for the terminal year of the Eighth Plan and the actual exports have been as under:-

S.No.	Item	Export Projection* for 1996-97 (Rs. in Crores at 1991-92 prices) (Planning Commission)	Export ** during 1995-96		Export** during 1996-97 (April-Dec'96 (Provisional)	
			Qty. in Tons	Value in Rs. Crores	Qty. in Tons	Value in Rs. Crores
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Tea	1324	157494	1171.66	104425	780.06
2.	Coffee	342	157087	1509.17	125049	1063.66